



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS HEWITT (DD-966)
FPO AP 96667-1204

Rec'd 5/27/97

IN REPLY REFER TO:
5750
DD 966

From: Commanding Officer, USS HEWITT (DD 966)
To: Director of Naval History

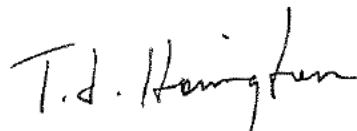
Subj: ANNUAL COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAV INSTRUCTION 5750.12F

Encl: (1) USS HEWITT Command History for 1996
(2) Biography of Commanding Officer
(3) USS HEWITT Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(4) 8x10 photograph of ship
(5) 5x7 photograph of Commanding Officer

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following unclassified history of USS HEWITT with supporting documents and photographs are provided as enclosures (1) through (5).

2. Point of Contact: ENS (b) (6), Public Affairs Officer.


T. J. HOWINGTON

Copy to:
COMDESRON FIFTEEN

USS HEWITT (DD 966)

USS HEWITT (DD 966)
COMMAND HISTORY
(OPNAV REPORT 5750-10)
1 JANUARY 1996 - 31 DECEMBER 1996

I. COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

USS HEWITT (DD 966) was commanded by Commander Ralph E. Janikowsky, USN until 2 February when he was relieved by Commander Michael D. Palatas. Commander Palatas was relieved by Commander Stephen C. Nimitz on 26 September. Commander Nimitz was relieved by Commander Carl A. Carpenter on 1 October, and Commander Carpenter was relieved by Commander Timothy J. Howington on 23 December 1996. HEWITT is currently a member of Forward Deployed Naval Forces, homeported in Yokosuka, Japan, assigned to Destroyer Squadron FIFTEEN. With a crew of 21 officers and 322 enlisted personnel, HEWITT's primary missions include Strike Warfare, Surface Warfare, Undersea Warfare, Air Warfare, and Amphibious Warfare.

II. CHRONOLGY

01 - 04 JAN	Inport Yokosuka, Holiday Upkeep
05 - 07 JAN	Enroute Okinawa, Japan
08 - 10 JAN	MISSILEX 96-1: Philippine Sea
11 - 16 JAN	Enroute Guam
16 JAN	NSFS FIREX I: Marianas Islands
17 - 19 JAN	Inport Guam
20 - 23 JAN	Enroute Yokosuka
25 JAN - 04 FEB	Inport Yokosuka, Upkeep
02 FEB	Change of Command: CDR Michael D. Palatas
05 - 06 FEB	Enroute Otaru, Japan
07 - 09 FEB	Inport Otaru, Japan for Sapporo Ice Festival
08 FEB	COMREL Project: Fuji Catholic Kindergarten

10 - 11 FEB	Enroute Yokosuka
12 FEB - 05 MAR	Inport Yokosuka, Upkeep
12 - 16 FEB	CMTQT
20 - 23 FEB	SRTT
06 - 07 MAR	Underway for OPPE
08 - 09 MAR	Inport Yokosuka, Upkeep
10 - 29 MAR	Underway for Taiwan Contingency Operations
23 - 28 MAR	TSTA III
29 MAR	FEP
31 MAR - 23 APR	Inport Yokosuka, Upkeep
15 - 25 APR	CSRR
24 APR - 12 MAY	Drydock, Yokosuka
27 APR	Ship's Picnic
29 APR - 02 MAY	SESI
07 MAY	PRT
13 MAY	Undock
14 MAY	Inport Yokosuka, Upkeep
15 - 16 MAY	Underway for CSRR
17 MAY - 03 JUN	Inport Yokosuka
18 MAY	Friendship Cruise
28 MAY	3M Assist Visit
03 - 10 JUN	Enroute Singapore
11 - 13 JUN	Inport Singapore

14 - 15 JUN	Enroute Phuket, Thailand
16 - 18 JUN	Inport Phuket, Thailand
17 JUN	COMREL Project Handclasp
19 - 26 JUN	Enroute Bahrain
21 JUN	Inchop Fifth Fleet
27 JUN - 04 JUL	Inport Bahrain
05 JUL - 17 JUL	MPS Protection
18 JUL	Diverted Vessel Escort
19 JUL - 01 AUG	MPS Protection
02 - 05 AUG	Rugged Nautalis '96
06 - 13 AUG	Inport Bahrain, Upkeep
08 AUG	CMS Standown
09 AUG	Ship's Party: Desert Dome
11 - 12 AUG	DC Standown
13 AUG	COMUSNAVCENT Visit
14 - 24 AUG	Maritime Interception Operations in the NAG
25 - 31 AUG	Inport Bahrain, Upkeep
01 - 04 SEP	Operation Desert Strike
05 - 06 SEP	TACEVALEX 96-1
06 - 16 SEP	MPS Protection
09 - 10 SEP	Safety Standown
17 - 18 SEP	USWEX 96-1
19 - 22 SEP	Enroute Bahrain

23 SEP - 02 OCT	Inport Bahrain, Upkeep
26 SEP	Change of Command: CDR Stephen C. Nimitz
01 OCT	Change of Command: CDR Carl A. Carpenter
03 - 10 OCT	Enroute Singapore
06 OCT	Outchop Fifth Fleet/Inchop Seventh Fleet
08 OCT	Medical Distress Call: Bay of Bengal
11 - 15 OCT	Inport Singapore
16 - 19 OCT	Enroute Hong Kong
18 OCT	Electrical Safety Standown
20 - 25 OCT	Inport Hong Kong
24 OCT	COMREL Project: Pinehill Village School
26 - 29 OCT	Enroute Yokosuka
30 OCT - 03 DEC	Inport Yokosuka, Upkeep
12 NOV	PRT
18 - 22 NOV	NGFS Team Trainer
01 DEC	COMREL Project: Hoikuen Children's Home
04 - 05 DEC	Enroute Okinawa, Japan
06 - 07 DEC	Inport Okinawa, Japan
08 - 09 DEC	MISSILEX 97-1
10 - 11 DEC	NGFS FIREX I
12 - 16 DEC	Enroute Yokosuka
16 DEC	Ammo Onload
17 DEC	Inport Yokosuka, Ship's Christmas Dinner

23 DEC Change of Command: CDR Timothy J. Howington
17 - 31 DEC Inport Yokosuka, Holiday Standown

III. NARRATIVE

USS HEWITT had an extremely busy and productive year in 1996. Beginning the year inport Yokosuka, HEWITT got underway for the Philippine Sea on 5 January to complete a successful MISSLEX 96-1. Immediately afterwards HEWITT was enroute Frallon de Medenilla, Marianas Islands to conduct Naval Surface Fire (NSFS) gunnery exercise. HEWITT's NSFS team scored an outstanding 105% out of a possible 110%. Following the NSFS exercise, the crew enjoyed a few days rest in Guam, then returned to Yokosuka 25 January to conduct a change of command.

CDR Michael D. Palatas relieved CDR Ralph E. Janikowski to become HEWITT's 11th Commanding Officer on 2 February, and HEWITT got underway for Otaru, Japan on 5 February. In Otaru HEWITT sailors had the opportunity to see the spectacular Sapporo Ice Festival. Also in Otaru, 26 sailors participated in a COMREL project at the Kuji Catholic Kindergarten School.

Returning to homeport on 12 February, the rest of February was used to prepare HEWITT for deployment. Cruise Missile Tactical Qualification Training (CMTQT) and Search and Rescue Team Training (SRTT) were held 12-16 February and 20-23 February, respectively. HEWITT was underway again on 6 March for two days to complete her Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE).

Immediately after returning to Yokosuka and with less than two days notice, HEWITT was called away to conduct Taiwan Contingency Operations from 10 to 29 March. China was conducting missile exercises off the coast of Taiwan in an effort to disrupt presidential elections being held in the island country. HEWITT was there, with the rest of the Independence battle group, to provide a stabilizing influence to the region as well as be on call for any military actions that might be necessary. Though the elections passed without major incident, HEWITT used this underway to perform TSTA III and FEP with Commander Destroyer Squadron Fifteen (COMDESRON FIFTEEN) embarked.

HEWITT pulled back into Yokosuka 31 March and continued her busy preparations for deployment. From 15 to 25 April a Combat Systems Readiness Review (CSRR) was conducted, and on 24 April

HEWITT shifted berths to a drydock in Yokosuka. The drydock period was necessary to replace one of HEWITT's twin screws as well as for general hull maintenance. While drydocked HEWITT's crew and their families were treated to a ship's picnic on 27 April. HEWITT also completed the Ship's Explosive Safety Inspection (SESI) on 2 May and conducted a PRT on 7 May. After successful repairs, HEWITT undocked 13 May and conducted sea trials as well as the underway portion of the CSRR from 15-16 May. On 18 May, HEWITT held a Friendship Cruise inport Yokosuka during which family members and guests were treated to tours and barbecue on the pier. Finally, on 28 May a 3M Assist Visit was completed.

HEWITT, departed Yokosuka for a five month Middle East Force (MEF) 96-2 deployment on 3 June. HEWITT's first port of call was Singapore which lasted 11-13 June. After Singapore HEWITT was enroute Phuket, Thailand and arrived 16 June. In Phuket HEWITT sailors participated in a highly successful community relations project called Handclasp. HEWITT sailors distributed 380 pounds of medical and personal supplies to the Phuket Home for the Aged. On 19 June HEWITT got underway and steamed an additional 3,000 miles to the Arabian Gulf to join Fifth Fleet in support of ongoing enforcement of United Nations sanctions against Iraq and to protect US interests in the region. On 21 June, HEWITT inchooped Fifth Fleet and pulled into Bahrain 27 June for an introduction and welcome to USNAVCENT Area of Responsibility (AOR).

After a brief stay in Bahrain, HEWITT assumed Maritime Prepositioning Ships (MPS) Protection duties on 5 July. While carrying out her duties as MPS protection ship, HEWITT participated in a joint Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps exercise called Rugged Nautilus '96. Rugged Nautilus was desgined to test USCENTCOM's ability to rapidly respond with coordinated air, ground, and naval surface operations and maintain the effectiveness of U.S. forces in today's leaner military. In addition to providing MPS Protection, HEWITT also performed escort duties by boarding and guiding a diverted merchant ship to one of the Gulf Cooperation Council Nations for civil prosecution. HEWITT continued with MPS duties afterwards.

HEWITT pulled back into Bahrain on 6 August for a well deserved rest after a long underway. A CMS Standown as well as a DC standown was conducted while inport on 8 August and 11-12 August, respectively. The crew also enjoyed a ship's party held at the Desert Dome in Bahrain on 9 August. Read Admiral ... COMUSNAVCENT visited HEWITT her last day inport 13 August.

HEWITT was underway once again 14-24 August to conduct Maritime Interception (MIO) Operations in the Northern Arabian Gulf (NAG). HEWITT successfully captured one merchant vessel attempting to transport illegal produce out of Iraq and queried several others during her patrols in the NAG. On 25 August HEWITT pulled back into Bahrain for upkeep.

Originally scheduled to get underway for TACEVALEX 96-1 on the first of September, HEWITT got underway instead to her ready strike box in the NAG in support of Operation Desert Strike. Saddam Hussein had launched an offensive against Kurdish factions in norther Iraq, and in response President Clinton ordered a cruise missile strike on key military sites in Iraq. A joint Air Force and Navy strike was conducted on 3 September, and as a follow-up to the initial strike, HEWITT launched two tomahawk cruise missiles in the early morning hours of 4 September. The follow up strike was conducted in conjunction with USS RUSSELL, USS LABOON, AND USS JEFFERSON CITY.

Immediately following the strikes, HEWITT continued on her originally scheduled TACEVALEX 96-1 with COMDESRON 50 embarked. The purpose of the exercise was to test the performance of the Navy's torpedoes in shallow water conditions, and HEWITT and HELLFIRE 00 from HSL 51 det 6 completed the exercise successfully by dropping every torpedo in its planned position from the mark. Following TACEVALEX 96-1, HEWITT was tasked with more MPS duties escorting a ship to Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and immediately following that mission, HEWITT participated in USWEX 96-1 with USS JEFFERSON CITY. HEWITT pulled into Bahrain for the last time on 23 September to turnover her duties to USS O'BRIEN and prepare for her return trip to Yokosuka. On 26 September, CDR Palatas was relieved of command by CDR Stephen C. Nimitz who held command until CDR Carl A. Carpenter arrived on 1 October to assume Commanding Officer USS HEWITT.

On 3 October HEWITT started her transit back home enroute Singapore, outchopping Fifth Fleet and inchopping back into Seventh Fleet on 6 October. While transitting the Bay of Bengal on 8 October, HEWITT's medical team and air crew responded to a medical distress coming from an Algerian merchant vessel. A crew member aboard the vessel was suffering from an ulcer which was bleeding internally, and HEWITT's medical team treated the patient until he could be transferred to shore facilities the next day.

The ship pulled into Singapore on 11 October and stayed there until 15 October. The next port was Hong Kong, and enroute an Electrical Safety Standown was conducted on 18 October. HEWITT pulled into Hong Kong on 20 October. While in Hong Kong, the crew prepared the ship for homecoming and also participated in a COMREL project at the Pinehill Village School. On 25 October, the ship departed Hong Kong for the final leg of her MEF 96-2 deployment. Homecoming was 30 October. Family and friends gathered on the pier to greet HEWITT sailors who had endured five months deployed to the Arabian Gulf in support of Fifth Fleet operations.

The crew enjoyed a post deployment standown and leave period from 30 October to 3 December. While inport, the semi-annual PRT was held 12 November, and from 18 to 22 November, a Naval Gunfire Support (NGFS) Team Trainer was conducted for HEWITT's newly formed NGFS team. Also, on 1 December HEWITT sailors hosted the Hoikuen Children's Home to a picnic and bowling.

HEWITT got underway once again on 4 December enroute Okinawa to conduct MISSILEX 97-1 and FIREX I. After a couple days inport Okinawa from 6-7 December, MISSILEX 97-1 commenced on 8 December and was a complete success with HEWITT being the only ship to make skin-on-skin contact between HEWITT's Sea Sparrow missile and the target drone. Immediately afterwards on 10 December, HEWITT's NGFS team followed up with a similar success by scoring 102 percent out of a possible 106 percent at the Okino Daito Jima range. HEWITT pulled back into Yokosuka on 16 December after a brief anchorage in the morning to onload ammunition. On the evening of 17 December, the ship's Christmas party was held at the A Club on base, and HEWITT also began her holiday standown period that day. 1996 closed for HEWITT with a change of command ceremony at which CDR Timothy J. Howington assumed command from CDR Carpenter.

CDR Timothy J. Howington
U.S. Navy

Commander Tim Howington was born in (b) (6). He graduated from Northeast Louisiana University and was commissioned in May 1980 at Officer Candidate School, Newport, Rhode Island. His first assignment was in San Diego-based USS HARRY W. HILL (DD 986), where he was Auxiliary Machinery and Gunnery Officer. In his first tour he was assigned as an engineering instructor at Surface Warfare Officer School in Coronado, California.

Following Department Head School, CDR Howington relieved as Chief Engineer in USS MOOSBRUGGER (DD 980), homeported in Charleston, South Carolina. For his second department head tour, he received orders to COMDESRON 15 as Material Officer. COMDESRON 15 is forward deployed to Yokosuka, Japan. CDR Howington participated in Desert Shield and Desert Storm as a staff member of CDS-15, embarked in USS MIDWAY (CV 41).

After his tour in Japan, CDR Howington attended the Naval War College in Newport and subsequently assumed command of USS CONQUEST (MSO 488), homeported in Everett, Washington. Following LCDR command, CDR Howington was ordered to the Bureau of Naval Personnel. There he served as Junior Officer Sea Coordinator and Assistant Captain Detailer.

CDR Howington is currently the commanding officer of USS HEWITT (DD 966). HEWITT serves as a unit of Task Force 70, embarked in USS INDEPENDENCE (CV 62). CTF 70 is forward deployed to Yokosuka, Japan.

CDR Howington is married to his hometown sweetheart, (b) (6) and they have two sons, (b) (6) and (b) (6).

Enclosure (2)